

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01

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R 241100Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHFC 6833

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3509

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS CHANGES

1. MAY 24 CAIRO NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCE RESTRUCTURING OF EGYPTIAN PRESS BOARDS AND EDITORSHIPS. FOLLOWING IS NEW SET UP:

A. AHRAM:

CHIEF EDITOR: AHMAD BAHAEDDIN (ALSO NAMED DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC STUDIES CENTER AND MANAGER OF AHRAM'S MAGAZINES)
MANAGING DIRECTOR: DIR. FUAD IBRAHIM

(OTHER): ISHAN ABDEL QUDDUS HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM CHAIRMANSHIP OF AKHBAR AL-YAWM AND WILL WRITE IN AHRAM AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST.

B. AKHBAR AL-YAWM.

CHAIRMAN: ALI AMIN

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: MUSA SABRI

EDITOR IN CHIEF: MUSTAPHA AMIN

EDITOR IN CHIEF OF AKHBAR: GALAL MOMOMSY

C. TAHRIR PUBLISHING HOUSE (WHICH PUBLISHED GUMHURIYYA)

CHAIRMAN: MUSTAPHA BAHGAT BEDAWI (NO CHANGE)

SUPERVISOR GENERAL: DR. SAYYID ABUL

D. ROSE AL-YOUSEF

CHAIRMAN: ABDEL RAHMAN SHARKAWI

MANAGING DIRECTOR: LOUSI GREISS

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2. ACCOMPANYING CHANGE IS CREATION OF SUPREME PRESS COUNCIL, HEADED BY INFORMATION MINISTER KEMAL ABDUL MEGD.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE CHANGES HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME MONTHS, BUT REPRESENTS THE FIRST REALIGNMENT OF GOE'S INTERNAL PRESS STRUCTURE SINCE APRIL 26 CABINET CHANGE. THERE IS NO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HATEM HAS BEEN REPLACED AS CHAIRMAN OF AHRAM, AND WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST SOURCE THAT HE WILL MAINTAIN HIS POSITION ON THE MASTHEAD, BUT HAVE VIRTUALLY NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAPER.

4. SAME JOURNALIST HAS TOLD US THAT ACCORDING TO REMARKS MADE DIRECTLY BY SADAT TO MUSTAPHA BAHGAT BEDAWI, PURPOSE OF CHANGE IS TO CREATE BALANCED EGYPTIAN PRESS. BY THIS DESIGN, AKHBAR WILL BE STRONGLY RIGHTIST AND PRO-SADAT; AHRAM WILL MAINTAIN ITS GENERALLY RESERVED AND CENTRIST LINE AS EGYPT'S PRESTIGE NEWSPAPER; AND GUMHURIYYA WILL BE THE VOICE OF THE "LOYAL LEFT", THE REPOSITORY OF NASSERISM, TAILORED SPECIFICALLY TO DEFLECT ALLEGATIONS THAT SADAT HAS SUBVERTED THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION OR MOVED TOO CLOSE TO THE WEST. SADAT ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WANTED GUMHURIYYA TO BE IN "RESERVE", AS A NEWSPAPER WHICH WOULD PLAY COUNTERPOINT TO TRENDS WHICH MIGHT DEVELOP IN AKHBAR AT THE DIRECTION OF THE AMIN BROTHERS. EILTS

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